

## REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 3, 2004. Claims 10-13 are presented for examination. Claim 10, the only independent claim, has been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action objected to the title as not being descriptive. Applicants have amended the title to read, --IMAGE PICKUP APPARATUS USING A SELECTOR CIRCUIT--. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the objection has been obviated, and respectfully request its withdrawal.

Claims 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,450,129 (*Matoba et al.*).

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 10 is an image pickup apparatus. The apparatus includes a sensor portion including a plurality of pixels, and an optical black portion including a plurality of optical black pixels. The apparatus also includes a scanning circuit effecting scanning for reading out signals of the sensor portion and the optical black portion, and a decoder for dividing the scanning circuit into a plurality of blocks and outputting a start pulse to cause scanning to start at a desired one of the plurality of blocks. The scanning circuit and the decoder are arranged such that a signal is transmitted from the scanning circuit to the decoder causing the decoder to output the start pulse in response to the signal, after the scanning circuit completes the scanning for reading out the signal of the optical black portion. Support for the features of Claim 10

may be found at least at Figures 9A and 10, and the corresponding disclosure in the specification.<sup>1</sup>

Among other important features of Claim 10 is that the scanning circuit and the decoder are arranged such that a signal is transmitted from the scanning circuit to the decoder causing the decoder to output the start pulse in response to the signal, after the scanning circuit completes the scanning for reading out the signal of the optical black portion.

*Matoba et al.* relates to an image processing apparatus capable of converting different television schemes. The *Matoba et al.* apparatus operates in different read-out modes of a pixel area which correspond to different TV systems (Figures 16-19B). The read-out modes are arranged so as to read out respective different pixel areas (column 14, line 44, to column 15, line 14, and Figures 18A-19B), and each mode reads out optical black pixels in each horizontal scanning period (column 14, lines 4-8). In a decoder of the *Matoba et al.* apparatus (Figures 18A-19B), a start pulse,  $\Phi_{in}$ , is provided to start scanning of the optical block pixels and subsequent effective pixels. However, nothing has been found in *Matoba et al.* that would teach or suggest a scanning circuit and a decoder arranged such that a signal is transmitted from the scanning circuit to the decoder causing the decoder to output the start pulse in response to the signal, after the scanning circuit completes the scanning for reading out the signal of the optical black portion. That is, *Matoba et al.* fails to teach that a signal is transmitted from a scanning circuit to a decoder after scanning of optical black pixels is completed causing the decoder to output a start

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<sup>1</sup>/ It is to be understood, of course, that the claim scope is not limited by the details of the described embodiments, which are referred to only to facilitate explanation.

pulse to the scanning circuit, causing the scanning circuit to start scanning a desired one of the plurality of blocks.

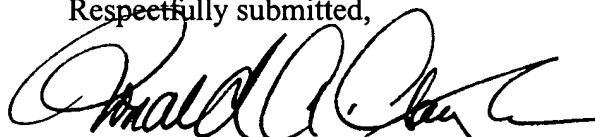
For at least the above reason, Applicants submit that Claim 10 is clearly patentable over *Matoba et al.*

The other claims in this application are each dependent from independent Claim 10 discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable further consideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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